

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing user role-specific views of an aggregated service in a computing network, the aggregated service comprising one or more software resources, the method comprising steps of:

providing a user role-specific portlet for each user role supported by a particular one of the one or more software resources;

providing linkage between the user role-specific portlets and the user roles for the particular one of the software resources;

repeating the providing steps providing a user role-specific portlet and providing linkage between the user role-specific portlets and the user roles for the particular one of the software resources for each of the one or more software resources;

obtaining, at run time, a user role corresponding to a user of the aggregated service; and

using the obtained user role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the user role-specific portlets for each of the software resources, thereby providing the user role-specific view of the aggregated service.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of rendering the selected user role-specific view for the user.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the using step using the obtained user role further comprises steps of:

determining which of the one or more software resources should be invoked to position the user's entry point into the aggregated service; and

using the obtained user role to programmatically select a user role-specific view of the determined software resource.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the user role is stored in a user profile associated with the user.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the user role is determined using the user's identification and credentials.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein user role information is programmatically relayed among distributed services performed by the software resources of the aggregated service.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the programmatic relaying comprises sending a message which specifies the user role in a header of the message and in which a body of the message identifies that this message is delivering the user role.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the message is a SOAP (“Simple Object Access Protocol”) message.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the linkage uses XML Linking language (“XLink”) syntax.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the linkage is stored in a portlet archive (“PAR”) file.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for providing user role-specific views of an aggregated service in a computing network, the aggregated service comprising one or more software resources, the system comprising:

means for providing a user role-specific portlet for each user role supported by a particular one of the one or more software resources;

means for providing linkage between the user role-specific portlets and the user roles for the particular one of the software resources;

means for repeating, for each of the one or more software resources, operation of the means for providing;

means for obtaining, at run time, a user role corresponding to a user of the aggregated service; and

means for using the obtained user role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the user role-specific portlets for each of the software resources, thereby providing the user role-specific view of the particular software resource.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for providing user role-specific views of an aggregated service in a computing network, the aggregated service comprising one or more software resources, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code ~~means for providing that is configured to provide~~ a user role-specific portlet for each user role supported by a particular one of the one or more software resources;

computer-readable program code ~~means for providing that is configured to provide~~ linkage between the user role-specific portlets and the user roles for the particular one of the software resources;

computer-readable program code repeating, for each of the one or more software resources, operation of the computer-readable program code ~~means for providing that is configured to provide a user role-specific portlet and the computer-readable program code that is configured to provide linkage between the user role-specific portlets and the user roles for the particular one of the software resources~~;

computer-readable program code ~~means for obtaining that is configured to obtain~~, at run time, a user role corresponding to a user of the aggregated service; and

computer-readable program code ~~means for using that is configured to use~~ the obtained user role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the role-specific portlets for each of the software resources, thereby providing the user role-specific view of the aggregated service.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of providing user role-specific views from a business web content aggregation framework, the method comprising steps of: aggregating components from one or more content aggregation frameworks; providing a user role-specific version of at least one of the aggregated components, for each user role supported by the at least one aggregated component; providing linkage between the user role-specific versions and the supported user roles; determining a user role corresponding to a current user of the aggregated components; using the determined user role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the user role-specific versions of the at least one aggregated component; and rendering the programmatically-selected version of the at least one aggregated component, thereby providing the user role-specific view.

14. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein: obtaining, at run time, a user role corresponding to a user of the aggregated service comprises assigning a consumer role as the user role when the user of the aggregated service is determined to be a consumer and assigning an administrator role as the user role when the user of the aggregated service is determined to be an administrator; and using the obtained user role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the user role-specific portlets for each of the software resources provides a consumer-specific view of the aggregated service when the user is determined to be a consumer and provides an administrator-specific view of the aggregated service when the user is determined to be an administrator.

15. (New) The system of Claim 11, wherein: the means for obtaining, at run time, a user role corresponding to a user of the aggregated service comprises means for assigning a consumer role as the user role when the user of the aggregated service is determined to be a consumer and means for assigning an administrator role as the user role when the user of the aggregated service is determined to be an administrator; and the means for using the obtained user role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the user role-specific portlets for each of the software resources provides a consumer-

specific view of the aggregated service when the user is determined to be a consumer and provides an administrator-specific view of the aggregated service when the user is determined to be an administrator.

16. (New) the computer program product of Claim 12, wherein:

the computer-readable program code that is configured to obtain, at run time, a user role corresponding to a user of the aggregated service comprises computer-readable program code that is configured to assign a consumer role as the user role when the user of the aggregated service is determined to be a consumer and computer-readable program code that is configured to assign an administrator role as the user role when the user of the aggregated service is determined to be an administrator; and

the computer-readable program code that is configured to use the obtained user role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the user role-specific portlets for each of the software resources is configured to provide a consumer-specific view of the aggregated service when the user is determined to be a consumer and provide an administrator-specific view of the aggregated service when the user is determined to be an administrator.

17. (New) The method of Claim 13 wherein:

determining a user role corresponding to a current user of the aggregated components comprises identifying the user role as a consumer role when the user of the aggregated components is a consumer and identifying the user role as an administrator role when the user of the aggregated components is an administrator; and

using the determined user role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the user role-specific versions of the at least one aggregated component comprises selecting a consumer-specific version of the at least one aggregated component when the consumer role is identified and selecting an administrator-specific version of the at least one aggregated component when the administrator role is identified.